



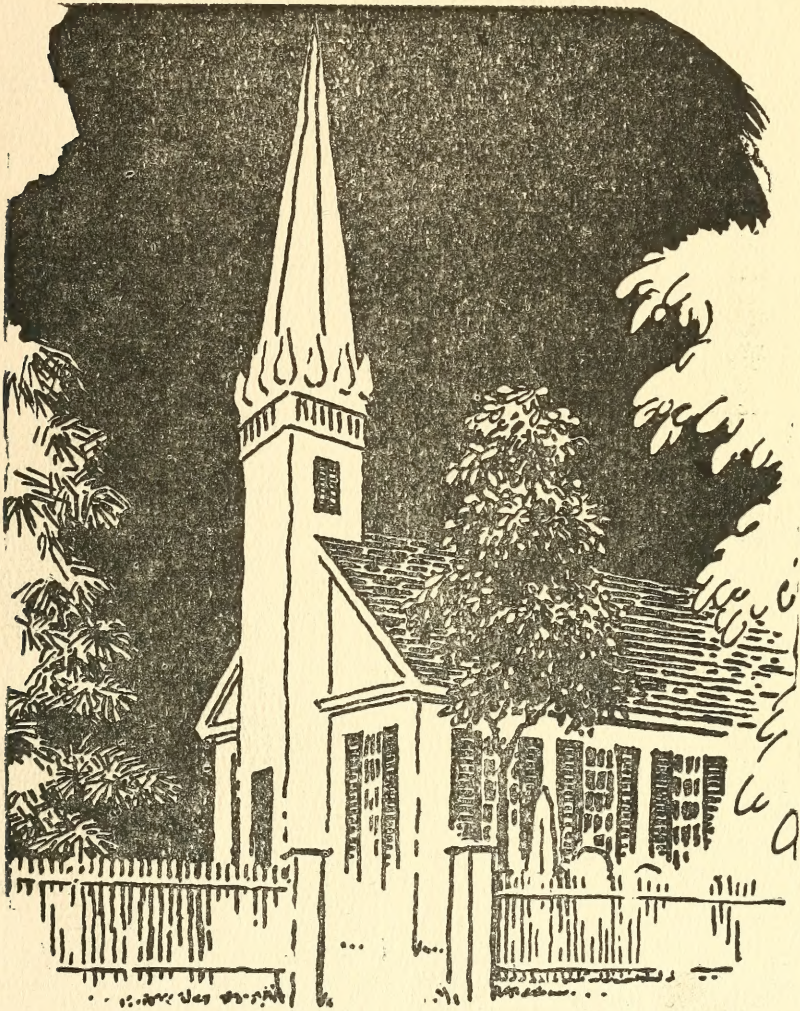
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Centennial Celebration

1852 - 1952



First Presbyterian Church

Venoir, North Carolina

"Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations . . . Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God."

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First Presbyterian Church
Centennial celebration,
1852-1952.

Centennial Program

for the observance

of the

One Hundredth Anniversary

of the founding

of the

First Presbyterian Church

Tenoir, North Carolina

Rev. A. A. McLean, D. D.

Miss Beatrice Kiser

George W. Kirsten, Jr.

Mrs. Lynn R. Bernhardt

J. H. Beall

J. H. Beall, Jr.

John C. Bernhardt

Pastor

Director Religious Education

Choir Director

Organist

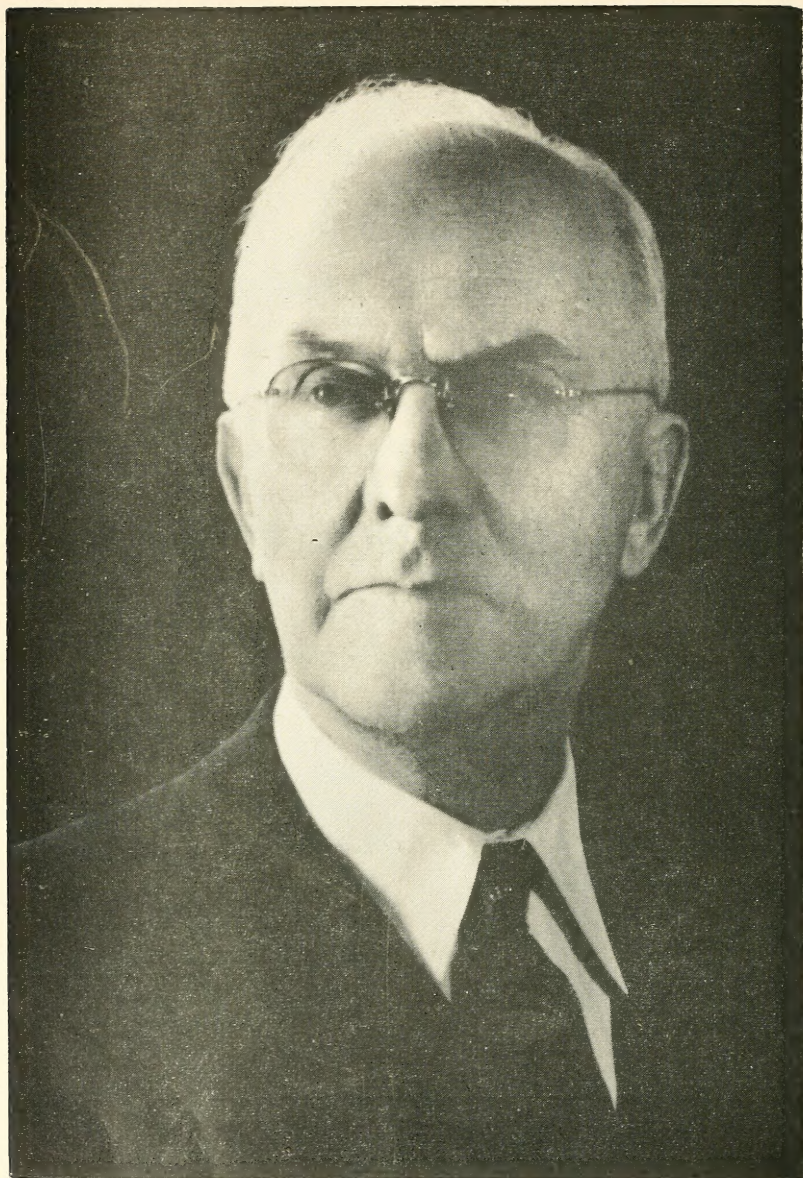
Clerk of Session

Chairman, Board of Deacons

Chairman, Centennial
Committee

Welcome

*A warm welcome is extended to all who worship with
us today on this momentous occasion.*



REV. AUGUSTUS ALEXANDER McLEAN, D.D.,
Our Beloved Minister

Program

PROGRAM: 10:00 A.M.

HYMN 353 "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord" Dwight

SCRIPTURE

PRAYER

HISTORICAL PAPER

Mr. J. Harper Beall, Sr.

QUARTET:

"Bless This House"

Brahe

George W. Kirsten, Jr., Lynn R. Bernhardt

J. Harper Beall, Jr., Fred A. Long

HISTORY OF THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Mrs. E. F. Reid

INTERMISSION

MORNING WORSHIP 11:15 A.M.

PRELUDE:

"Pilgrim's Chorus"

Wagner

CALL TO WORSHIP

"The Lord is in His Holy Temple

Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

*DOXOLOGY

*INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

QUARTET:

"Thanks Be To God"

Dickson

George W. Kirsten, Jr., Lynn R. Bernhardt

J. Harper Beall, Jr., Fred A. Long

RESPONSIVE READING: Selection 25

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN 345

"The Church's One Foundation"

Stone

OFFERTORY

ANTHEM:

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Mueller

"Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms, hath blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today!"

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" How

PRAYER FOR PEACE

"Father of every race, giver of every grace,

Hear us we pray!

Let every land be free; may all men brothers be,

All nations honor Thee now and for aye." Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

PRAYER

SERMON:

"The Unchanging Christ"

Rev. Neill R. McGeachy

PRAYER

*HYMN 373

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Fawcett

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE: "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" Lutkin

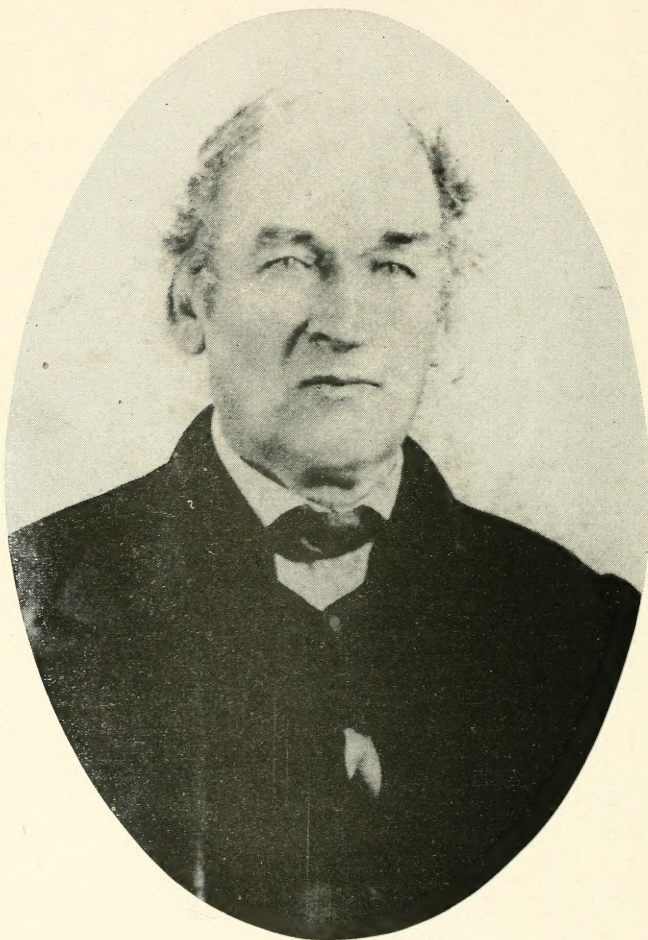
POSTLUDE:

"Onward Christian Soldiers"

Baring-Gould

(*Congregation Standing)

First Pastor



REV. JESSE RANKIN

Pastor, 1869-1875

Died 1876

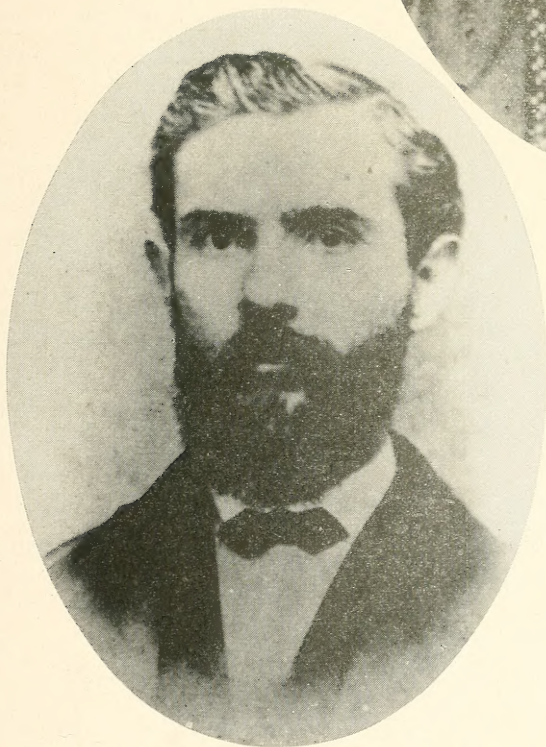
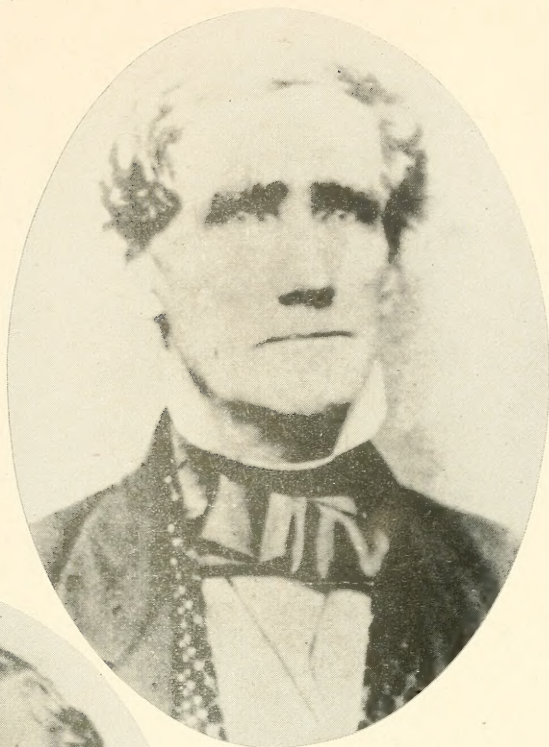
First Officers

JAMES HARPER

First Elder and Clerk,

1852-1879

Died 1879



DR. ROBERT L. BEALL

Elder, 1866-1891

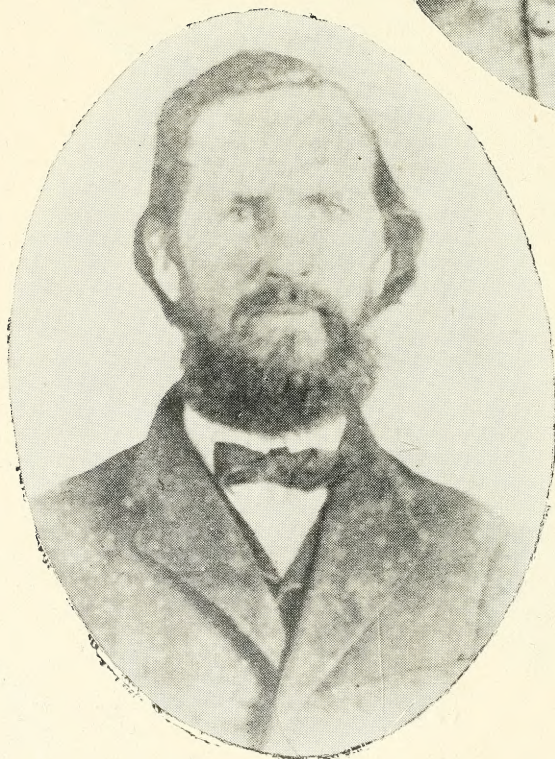
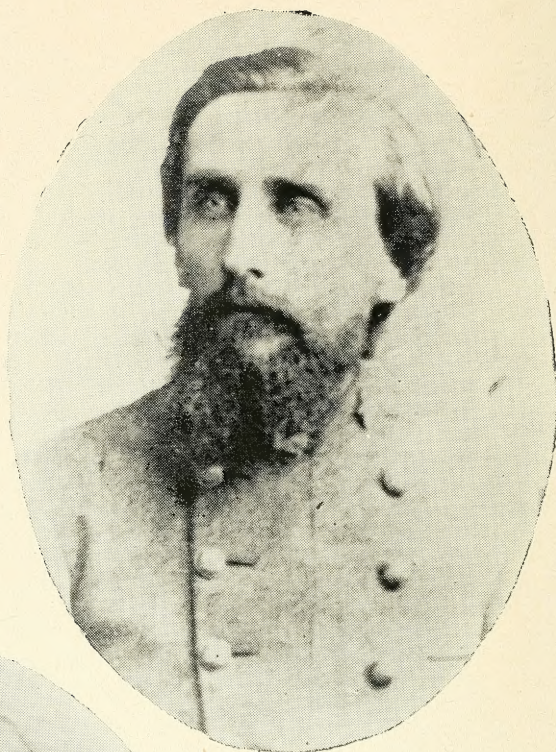
Died 1891

MAJOR G. W. F. HARPER

Deacon, 1868;

Elected Elder 1891

Died 1921



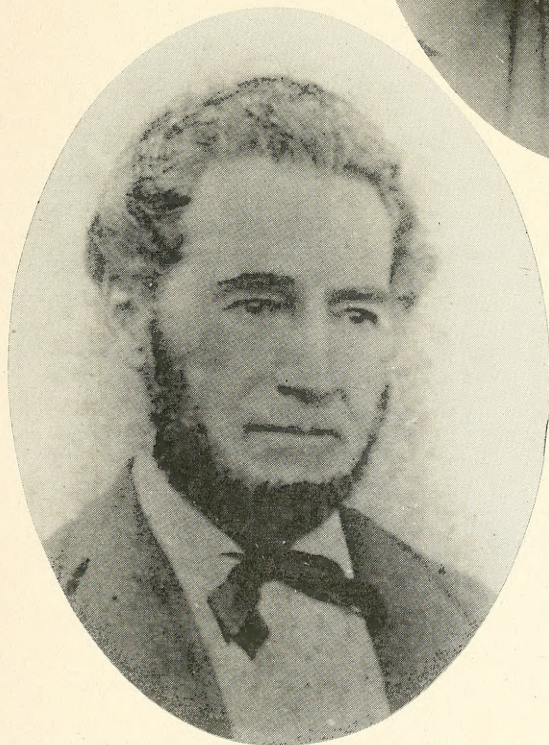
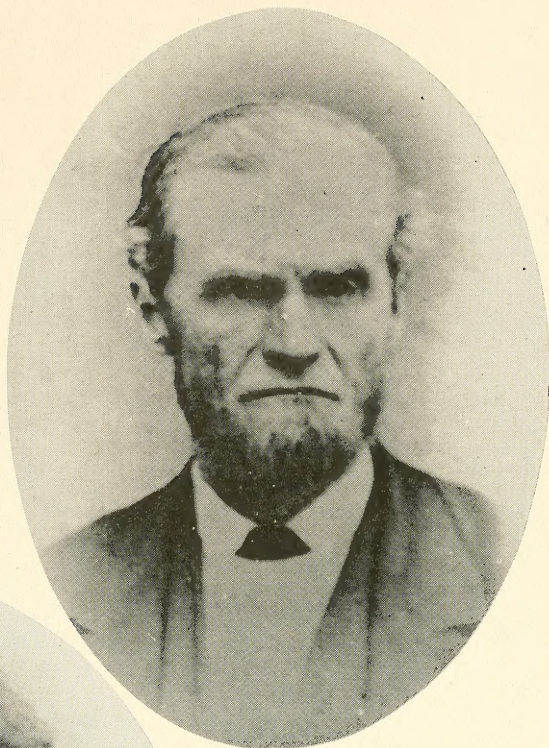
EDWARD W. FAUCETTE

Elder 1852

Died 1901

HUGH C. HAMILTON

Deacon, 1863;
Elected Elder 1880
Died 1899



MATTHIAS A. BERNHARDT

Deacon 1863-1877
Died 1877

Minutes of Organizational Meeting

Lenoir, N. C., July 31, 1852

Pursuant to the order of the Presbytery of Concord, the undersigned met at Lenoir for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterian Church if the way was open. After a sermon by Rev. B. L. Beall the object of the committee was stated by him in a few words viz: that they appeared as a committee by the order of Presbytery and temporarily as a church Session for the purpose of receiving the certificates and hearing the applications of all such persons as may desire to connect themselves with a Presbyterian Church to organize here. Having constituted with prayer the following persons presented certificates: Mr. James Harper from the Session of Wilkesboro Church, Miss Emma J. Baker from the Session of Salem Church, Mrs. Caroline Harper from the M. E. Church at Lenoir, N. C. who were all received as members of this church.

Mr. James Harper was duly elected a ruling Elder and having signified to the committee his acceptance of the office, Mr. Beall in the presence of the congregation proposed to him the usual questions as prescribed by our Book which were answered in the affirmative. The usual questions to the members electing him was also proposed by Mr. Beall and the affirmative answer signified by holding up the right hand. Mr. James Harper was then by prayer solemnly set apart to this office of ruling Elder in this church. The church was declared duly organized by the name and style of the "Presbyterian Church of Lenoir, N. C.," which being done the committee informed the church that their connection with it as a committee of the Presbytery of Concord was at an end.

A. C. McIntosh

B. L. Beall

COMMENT: The above is an exact copy of the original minutes. The original itself has been preserved in Book No. 2 of the minutes of the Session.

Rev. B. L. Beall at this time was what we would call today Supt. of Presbytery's Home Missions and was later the third pastor of this church. (1880-1882)

Mr. A. C. McIntosh was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church, Taylorsville, N. C.

July 1852 -- July 1952

Brief History
of the First Presbyterian Church
Lenoir, North Carolina

Presented on the 100th Anniversary Occasion

INTRODUCTION

To condense the one hundred years of the History of this Church into a brief report is of course an impossible task. Fortunately, however, we have in possession of the Church ALL of the Sessional Records for the entire one hundred years period — not one missing — a fact which in itself is little short of the miraculous; and fortunately, too, we have a well prepared history of the Church up to about 1911, written by Major G. W. F. Harper, one of the very early members and for about thirty years Clerk of the Session. Also a large amount of historical data supplied by his daughter, Mrs. Ellen Harper Bernhardt (Mrs. J. M. Bernhardt) both natural born historians. We are also fortunate in having in the permanent records the full Historical Address given by the late Dr. D. P. McGeachy, a former pastor, which was delivered by him on the occasion of the observance of the 75th Anniversary of this Church in 1927.

Since these historical papers have been presented to the

Congregation in comparatively recent years, and since they are in the permanent records, it has seemed to your committee that for this occasion it would be more appropriate to make this report more or less supplemental to these previous reports, and to deal more with incidents of unusual human interest and incidents reflecting the deep piety and rugged devotion to Christian duty on the part of those earlier faithful servants long since gone to their reward.

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORIGINAL ORGANIZATION —
JULY 31, 1852**

It does seem necessary, however, that reference be made here to the original organization, and that part of these records be repeated as follows:

This original organization was effected at the old log church which stood in the center of the old Fairfield Cemetery, in what is now the Northwestern part of Lenoir, and that the newly organized church worshipped at that point until the construction, in 1859 of the little white church on the exact spot of this present building. Thus, it seems that this little congregation worshipped at the above noted log church for the first seven years of its history. This log church and cemetery was the property of the South Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

This organizational meeting was conducted by Rev. Benjamin L. Beall, later the third pastor of this church, and Elder A. C. McIntosh of Taylorsville. These two were appointed by Concord Presbytery to serve as a Committee for this specific purpose.

Nine members were scheduled to be present for this meeting but six of this number were providentially hindered from appearing, but the Presbytery's Committee thought best to proceed with the organization with only three applicants present. These three were, Mr. James Harper and his wife, Mrs. Caroline Finley Harper, and Miss Emma J. Baker. Thus, the organization was duly effected. The records show that the other six applicants, and others, were later received. An exact copy of the minutes of this original organizational meeting is supplied on a separate sheet herewith.

ORIGINAL BUILDING AND ITS SUCCESSORS

In 1859 the congregation acquired the present site and built the little white church, a drawing of which appears on the front page of this program. According to the records this building was erected in 1859 at a cost of about \$2,000. It is safe to assume, however, that much material and labor went into this building as contributions not recorded. This building was used from 1859 until 1903. This was followed in 1903 as noted by the following record:

"The capacity of the building thought by some to be too small for our growing congregation, and extensive association of nearly half of a century, had to succumb to the demands of progress. In its removal to an adjoining lot to make room for the new church to take its place, the tackle broke under the strain upon it, precipitating the building to the ground and completely demolished it. The sweet-toned bell, weighing over 400 pounds, which had called the worshippers together for over two score years, alone escaped damage, though falling in its belfry nearly 50 feet. It is now (1910) used in the new church."

COMMENT: This same bell continues to call to worship, and for such occasions as this, those of the third and fourth and even fifth generations.

"During the winter of 1902-03, which followed the destruction of the church building, the congregation declining to accept the use of the Methodist and Baptist Churches, tendered it, worshipped regularly in the Masonic Hall, kindly rented to it by the Hibriten Lodge. The Christian Spirit and brotherly love of our Methodist and Baptist brethren in the offer of their churches was gratefully appreciated, but they each having constant use for their churches, it was not considered practicable or proper to accept the offers so kindly made."

The little white church described above served the congregation from 1859 until 1904. That church building was replaced by a brick building, now the main auditorium of the present church plant, which was completed in 1904 and was duly dedicated on June 4, 1905. Dr. Walter W. Moore, widely known over the entire Southern Presbyterian Church for many years and who received his early education in Lenoir, preached the dedicatory sermon.

A few years later (May 1910) the church's first handsome

pipe organ was given by Major G. W. F. Harper as a memorial to his sainted wife, Mrs. Ella Rankin Harper, who had crossed over the river the previous year. That organ served this church until the present one was installed, August 1949.

The next major building improvement was that of remodeling the auditorium and the addition of the Sunday School Annex of 21 rooms and assembly room at a cost of \$28,000. The congregation during that construction, in 1922, used the Court House as a temporary place of worship.

Further extensive remodeling of the church building was done in 1938 at a cost in excess of \$17,000. It is a matter of record and lasting appreciation that the workmen on this job gave to the church, built by their own hands, the outdoor fire place, constructed of handsome stone masonry. Additional rooms and other improvements to the church building and sanctuary were added in 1949 in connection with providing space for the new pipe organ at a total cost, including the organ, in excess of \$35,000.

Recent improvements in the Ladies' Parlor, Dining Room and Kitchen will approximate \$10,000. Looking forward, further major improvements are contemplated for the benefit of the young people of the church.

The foregoing brings the building program of the church up to the present time.

COMMENT: The large lot lying in front of the church (the present parking lot) was on January 24, 1898 deeded as a gift to this church by Misses Sarah T. and Emma L. Rankin, daughters of the first pastor of this church. It was their thought that the church would wish to use this lot some day as a site for a new manse. This was before automobiles appeared and it is evident now that these Godly women then provided for the church far more wisely than they knew.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Throughout the major part of the history of this church there has been shown an outstanding interest in Foreign Missions. The church has had the partial or full support of the following:

Miss Nellie B. Rankin, Savannah, Ga., Died in active service

Miss Susanne Colton, Morganton, N. C.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Petrie Mitchell, Louisville, Ky.

All of these served or are serving on the Korean Field.

GOSPEL MINISTRY

Four of the young men of this church — all four Sons of the Manse — have entered the Gospel Ministry as their life's work. They are as follows: Rev. Daniel Patrick McGeachy, Jr., Pastor of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, Clearwater, Florida; Rev. Neill R. McGeachy, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Statesville, N. C. and honored guest-speaker here with us today; Rev. Frederick H. McLean, a World War II casualty; and Rev. William S. McLean, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, McGehee, Arkansas.

MISSION POINTS

Beginning in the early 1890's and continuing to the present, mission points have been opened by faithful and zealous members of this church. Several of these mission points have developed into organized churches in their respective communities. The complete list follows: Beattie Memorial, Oakwood, Fairview, Warrior, Whitnel and Setzer's Gap (now established churches); Mortimer, Patterson and Hartley's School House (these latter three served to meet temporary needs).

CONTRIBUTIONS

A complete record of contributions for the first and second fifty year periods in comparative form and covering the various causes is listed below:

	1852 — 1902	1903 — 1952	Total
Foreign Missions	\$ 1,166.00	\$102,825.00	\$103,991.00
Home Missions	1,341.00	99,700.00	101,041.00
Schools & Colleges	217.00	71,479.00	71,696.00
Orphanages	214.00	59,791.00	60,005.00
Local Expense	13,412.00	398,686.48	412,098.48
Building Expense	2,778.00	157,656.81	160,434.81
Grand Total	\$19,128.00	\$890,138.29	\$909,266.29

In considering the extremely low figures of the first 50 year period it should be remembered that during most of this first half century this small band of Christian men and women lived through conditions of Civil War with all its blighting effects, a sparse population, no industrial payrolls, and very limited income from any source. Further light on this disparaging comparison of the first fifty year period with the second, is illuminated by the following official census figures:

Population of Lenoir in 1870 — 446

Population of Lenoir in 1880 — 422

Population of Lenoir in 1890 — 673

It was not until about 1895 that the population reached 1000.

REVIVALS

The 100 year history of this church discloses that there have been very few outstanding periods of spiritual revival. We quote the following from the records: "By far the most notable revival in the history of the church was that conducted by the late Dr. William Black, Synodical Evangelist, which was held in this church May 15, 1899 to May 22, 1899. Dr. Black, assisted by Rev. A. K. Pool, held morning and evening services daily. The meeting after the first two days was held by invitation, in the Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church being too small to hold the congregations. The meetings were blessed of God in the revival of His Cause and the comforting of His People of all denominations, particularly our Methodist Brethren, who joined heartily in the meetings."

COMMENT: The handsome building recently completed at Montreat and known as the William Black Home, was named in honor of this noted evangelist.

There were, of course, special meetings of religious fervor, notably among which may be mentioned a series of services held in this church by the late Rev. Gypsy Smith, Jr., in the middle 1920's.

BRIEF EXTRACTS FROM SESSIONAL RECORDS —

EXACT QUOTATIONS

As reflecting the official and individual life of the church in the earlier period of its history, together with the deep reverence, earnestness of purpose, and portrayal of its spiritual life in general, we present to you herewith the following extracts from the official records of the church, all of which are herein reproduced exactly as recorded.

MARCH 23, 1872

"The Session also appointed E. W. Faucette and Dr. R. L. Beall a Committee to organize if the way be open, a prayer meeting to be known as the Young Men's Prayer meeting, to be composed, if possible of all the male members of our church who are not in the habit of leading in public prayer."

FEBRUARY 17, 1875

"The Clerk of the Session was instructed to write to all members of the church who have not reported within twelve months and ask them to give an account of themselves."

NOVEMBER 5, 1876

"H. C. Hamilton, Esqr., was appointed a committee to see the colored minister and learn if they would like to have any aid from our church, either in the way of preaching or Sabbath School teaching."

JANUARY 7, 1877

"Mr. Hamilton reported that he had conferred with the Pastor of the African Church and that the way was clear for the Pastor of our church to preach in their house of worship and that an appointment be made for him on the evening of the third Sabbath of the current month."

SEPTEMBER 15, 1873

"Martha Harper (colored) appeared before the Session. After the usual examination with regard to her faith in Christ was received into the Church. Baptism was administered to her."

DECEMBER 4, 1876

"An Elder was appointed to confer with 'John Doe' with reference to his frequent absence from church and reported irregularities in business."

AUGUST 11, 1881

"The Session decided to meet all the young people of the congregation on the 4th Sabbath of the month and discuss the observance of the Sabbath."

AUGUST 1, 1888

"The treasurer of the Deacons made his quarterly report, showing a deficit of \$28.00 on Pastor's salary for last quarter and \$10.48 on the last year's salary. The Session instructed the Clerk to notify the Deacons of the state of finances and urge them to greater diligence and also to request them to increase the weekly subscriptions."

APRIL 1, 1889

"Pastor's Salary actually paid, \$415.52 year 1888-1889"

COMMENT: The Pastor then served Lenoir Church and Hickory Church one-half of his time to each.

OCTOBER 27, 1889

"'John Doe' appeared before the Session but owing to his lack of knowledge of the plan of salvation and general ignorance on the subject of religion, it was thought best to retain him as a probationer for the present till he could be better instructed."

FEBRUARY 14, 1894

"'John Doe' confessed by letter of being guilty of profane swearing and expressed sorrow for his sin and a resolution of praying to God for help in fighting this sin. His confession was commended and an Elder was appointed to visit him and assure him the sympathy of the Session and encourage him to 'fight the good fight of faith.' Special prayer was made for this Brother by the Session."

COMMENT: How tenderly and faithfully such cases were dealt with.

APRIL 1895

"Membership of this church did not pass the 100 mark until the church year ending March 31, 1895. The explanation for this lies in the fact that as of that date the population of Lenoir was less than 1000 inhabitants."

MAY 28, 1899

"Immediately following this meeting (Rev. Wm. Black Revival) there were 24 received into the membership of this church on profession of their faith and many added to other churches."

COMMENT: As of March 31, 1900 number of members, 140, pastor's salary \$800.00.

MARCH 31, 1907

"Total number of communicants passed the 200 mark at the end of the church year, March 31, 1907."

MAY 5, 1918

"The members of the Committee who recently visited the Presbyterian Church at Bowling, S. C. (Clover) for the purpose of seeing and hearing Rev. A. A. McLean reported that they performed that duty on last Sabbath, the 28th and from observation and general information they report that in their opinion our church would have nothing to regret if we could secure Mr. McLean as pastor of the Lenoir Presbyterian Church."

COMMENT: The fine judgment and correct appraisal of said committee have long since been fully confirmed.

JUNE 1928

By special official action of the Session in June 1928, a letter was addressed to Mrs. Ellen Harper Bernhardt giving expression of great appreciation for her services in having prepared an excellent review of the History of this Church, and even more particularly, in the matter of making long-overdue acknowledgment, by the Session and by this Church, for her faithful and most acceptable service as Organist, this latter service having extended from her youth and on through a period of more than forty years.

This concludes your Committee's condensed Historical Paper. For the reason that the more recent period of the history of this church is well within the knowledge of so many present members, this report has dwelt largely on the earlier events of historical interest and has reproduced selected portions from the official records, these selections being designed to give us of today at least a glimpse of the great faith and faithfulness of the founding fathers and that of the saintly women of those pioneer days. We can and do witness to the fact that the influence of their Godly lives and example still lives with us, even to this day and hour.

As we here and now look backward in review over this 100 years period, freighted with its many hallowed memories and associations and thank God for it all, it is equally or even more important that we also look forward as we are now in the very act of entering the beginning of a new century of service. As we so enter, may it be with an ever increasing faith, courage, and consecration of our lives to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, praying that He will continue to richly bless and prosper this Vine of His own planting and cause it to be even more and more fruitful to His Glory, through Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

James C. Harper
J. T. Pritchett
V. D. Guire
Miss Beatrice Kiser
J. H. Beall, Chairman

History of the Women's Work

How wonderful that God has given us the power to think and to remember. In a moment's time we can think back a hundred years! As we look back we see the beginning of a long procession of women marching in groups or alone, singing praises to God, praying, studying the Bible and ministering to the needs of the poor, the afflicted, and the scroving ones. Some are marching on their knees. A wonderful sight! And who is that One we see marching with these women? It is Jesus Himself, encouraging and strengthening those who march. Every now and then we see Jesus taking one of these Saints by the hand and leading them to their beautiful home in heaven.

While we have no record of a woman's organization until 1902 we know that those charter members and those who followed them were praying women and were doing their part in a quiet way. Rev. Jesse Rankin, the first pastor, had four daughters, Miss Sarah and Miss Emma Rankin, Mrs. W. H. Cloyd and Mrs. G. W. F. Harper. All of these were leaders and fine Sunday School teachers. Miss Emma and Miss Sarah and a few others organized a small Sunday School in what is now the Valmead section. Perhaps they thought it was a small thing they were doing for the Master but He blessed their efforts and as a result of their small beginning we now have the beautiful Beattie Memorial Church.

As we look carefully at the procession many faces come before us. We see the sweet face of Mrs. Jessie Newland as she sat in her pew, always with a smile on her face and a kind word for every one she met. Along with her we see gentle Mrs. Laura Powell Jennings and we are reminded of her each Sunday when the beautiful Pulpit Bible is opened, for it was given in her memory. Mrs. George Finley Harper was a born teacher. She taught the Woman's Bible Class for many years and endeared herself to the women in her class. We see Mrs. W. H. Craddock, an enthusiastic worker. She wrote a fine history of the Women's Auxiliary, which is carefully preserved with the Church Records.

The women of this church have always taken an interest in the Colored People of our community. Mrs. J. C. Seagle taught a class of girls to sew and make things with their hands. Along with

it she taught them the Bible and the Catechism. Afterwards she taught a weekly class in West End for many years. Miss Annie Beall also taught a Sunday School Class every Sunday afternoon at the home of a respected Colored woman, Aunt Emma Shade. For over twenty years the women of the church have paid the expenses of a delegate to the Negro Woman's Annual Conference held in Winston-Salem.

The children at Barium Springs and Grandfather Orphanage have been lovingly remembered year after year. Mrs. Ellen Harper Bernhardt was Secretary of Orphanage work for many years. Each summer she invited "our" two Barium boys to spend their vacation with her and how those boys enjoyed it. For forty years Mrs. Bernhardt was organist for this church. She touched many a heart with her music. Mrs. L. P. Henkel is remembered as she sang in the choir, using her sweet voice to the glory of God.

As the procession moves nearer we see a group of wonderful Christians, Mrs. Ethel Robbins, Mrs. Ethel Yates, Mrs. Charlotte Harper, Mrs. Effie C. Wilson, and Mrs. Ruth Robbins. Their influence lives on and on to bless this church and community. No woman in this church has done more for the poor and needy than Mrs. Lucy Richmond Bernhardt. As long as her health permitted she visited in these homes and no one in need has been turned away from her door empty handed. Surely she has heard the Master say, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these ye did it unto me."

And now what of the present? Yes, the women are still marching on, praying, singing praises to God and helping to send the Gospel to the four corners of the earth, but not neglecting the work at home as proven by the work at Hayes Hill, started and kept up by Mrs. J. C. Seagle, and the Chapel at Warrior, started by Mrs. Harper Beall, Jr. This history would not be complete if we failed to mention the wives of all the pastors of this church. They have been noble women — fine, and faithful and discreet — true helpmates.

This abbreviated sketch is not so much a history of the work done by the women but rather an insight into the character of the women who have, and are still doing the work of this church. A spirit of love and cooperation has existed among the women throughout all these years and we thank God for it.

It is difficult to write a history of this kind without some one thinking or saying, "Why was this one or that one left out." But in this case no one can say that, for this little history is lovingly dedicated to every single woman who has ever done anything in this church for the Master for the past one hundred years. Not one has been left out and their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Written by —

Mrs. Bessie Beall Reid.

Complete Roll of Pastors and Stated Supply

REV. WILLIAM C. SHEETS

Stated supply for half-time, 1854-1855. Died Feb. 20, 1870.

REV. JESSE RANKIN

First Pastor, Jan. 10, 1869 to August, 1875. Died Oct. 18, 1876.

REV. PAUL P. WINN

1876-1879. Died Nov. 14, 1931.

REV. BENJAMIN L. BEALL

1880-1882. Died Feb. 14, 1913.

REV. COLIN A. MUNROE

July 26, 1885 for half-time; April 1891, called for full time. Resigned 1903. Died April 11, 1919.

REV. A. SHORTER CALDWELL

Stated supply for part-time, 1903-1905. Died May 22, 1932.

REV. DANIEL PATRICK McGEACHY

Jan. 15, 1905 to Jan. 8, 1911. Died Aug. 16, 1951.

REV. CHARLES TAPPEY SQUIRES

Jan. 15, 1911 to 1918. Died November, 1946.

REV. AUGUSTUS ALEXANDER McLEAN

July 27, 1918. —

Elders

NAME	ORDAINED	DISMISSED OR DIED
James Harper	July 31, 1852	Died January 26, 1879
Edward W. Faucette	August 1852	Dismissed to Concord Church, Concord. Returned by letter from Statesville Church March 16, 1862 and again served as Clerk of Session. Resigned and moved to Tenn., Jan. 11, 1861. Returned again Aug. 28, 1897 and served the Church as Elder until his death Nov. 1, 1901
Nathaniel T. Rankin	May 8, 1858	Dismissed, June 19, 1868
Dr. Robert Lamar Beall	July 8, 1866	Died at Lenoir, Nov. 23, 1891
Hugh C. Hamilton	April 12, 1874	Dismissed to Hickory Church, Dec. 1880

Geo. W. F. Harper	March 8, 1891	Clerk of Session after March 11, 1891. Died at Lenoir, March 16, 1921.
Geo. Lynn Bernhardt	March 8, 1891	Died at Lenoir, Aug. 1, 1912
George E. Stone	Dec. 20, 1891	Dismissed to Durham, N. C. Dec., 1892.
John W. Kirby	Jan. 15, 1893	Dismissed to Marion, N. C., Dec. 1898.
S. Wilson Hamilton	Dec. 1892	Died at Lenoir, Jan. 26, 1899.
J. Gaither Hall	Sept. 5, 1897	Died at Lenoir, Aug. 1, 1913
Edward F. Reid	April, 1909	Died at Lenoir, Nov. 3, 1923
J. H. Thompson	April 1909	Died
S. Andrew Grier	April, 1909	Dismissed to Presbyterian Church Hickory, March 31, 1915.
J. M. Bernhardt	Oct. 29, 1911	Died at Lenoir, Jan. 5, 1935
James Harper Beall	Oct. 29, 1911	_____
J. Edward Martin	Oct. 19, 1919	Died at Lenoir, June 3, 1936
William H. Craddock	Oct. 19, 1919	Died at Lenoir, July 16, 1934
Rufus L. Gwyn	Feb. 17, 1924	_____
George F. Harper	Feb. 17, 1924	Died at Lenoir, Feb. 29, 1944
Virgil D. Guire	Feb. 17, 1924	_____
Fred H. Brown	Feb. 2, 1930	Dismissed to First A. R. P. Church, Charlotte, N. C., Nov. 29, 1935.
Dr. W. M. White	Feb. 2, 1930	Died at Lenoir, Oct. 31, 1941
Robey C. Robbins	Feb. 2, 1930	_____
James C. Harper	Dec. 19, 1937	_____
James T. Pritchett	Dec. 19, 1937	_____
Willis G. Haymaker	Dec. 19, 1937	_____
Fred H. Brown	Dec. 19, 1937) (Re-elected	_____
John Barr Houston, Jr.	Oct. 6, 1946	_____
G. G. Ludwig	Oct. 6, 1946	_____
L. Bascom Martin	Oct. 6, 1946	_____
W. Clyde Suddreth	Oct. 6, 1946	_____

Deacons

NAME	ORDAINED	DIED OR DISMISSED
Matthias A. Bernhardt	April 25, 1863	Died Feb. 5, 1877
Hugh C. Hamilton	April 25, 1863	Elected Elder Dec., 1880
G. W. F. Harper	Feb. 23, 1868	Elected Elder, March 1891 Died, March 16, 1921
Henry C. Dixon	April 5, 1874	Dismissed Jan. 7, 1880 to Dallas, N. C. Removed afterwards to Hickory, N. C. and died there.
S. Wilson Hamilton	Sept. 9, 1877	Elected Elder, Dec. 1892. Died
John M. Bernhardt	Oct. 23, 1886	Elected Elder, Oct. 29, 1911, Died Jan. 5, 1935
John W. Kirby	March, 1891	Elected Elder, Jan. 15, 1893
Edward F. Reid	April 4, 1891	Elected Elder, April 4, 1909
J. Harper Beall	Aug. 22, 1892	Elected Elder, Oct. 29, 1911
C. M. Sigmon	Aug. 22, 1892	Died Dec. 17, 1937.
George F. Harper	April 4, 1909	Elected Elder, Feb. 17, 1924 Died Feb. 29, 1944
Ralph H. Spainhour	April 4, 1909	Dismissed to Quaker Meadows Church Oct. 19, 1913.
J. R. Boulware	April 4, 1909	Dismissed to Lakeland, Fla. Pres. Ch. March 10, 1912
Richmond A. Ramseur	Oct. 29, 1911	Dismissed to Lincolnton Pres. Church, May 27, 1917
James Edward Martin	March 2, 1913	Elected Elder, Oct. 19, 1919
Poley M. Keever	March 2, 1913	Dismissed to Presbyterian Church, Lincolnton, Oct. 19, 1913.
William H. Craddock	March 2, 1913	Elected Elder, Oct. 19, 1919 Died July 16, 1934
Luther Hoffman	March 7, 1915	Died Jan. 2, 1933
Samuel W. Lawrence	March 7, 1915	Dismissed to Hickory, Jan. 2, 1918
Robert C. Lyerly	March 7, 1915	Dismissed to Lexington, June 17, 1917
Virgil D. Guire	March 7, 1915	Elected Elder, Feb. 17, 1924
Rufus L. Gwyn	March 7, 1915	Elected Elder, Feb. 17, 1924
James T. Pritchett	Oct. 19, 1919	Elected Elder Dec. 19, 1937

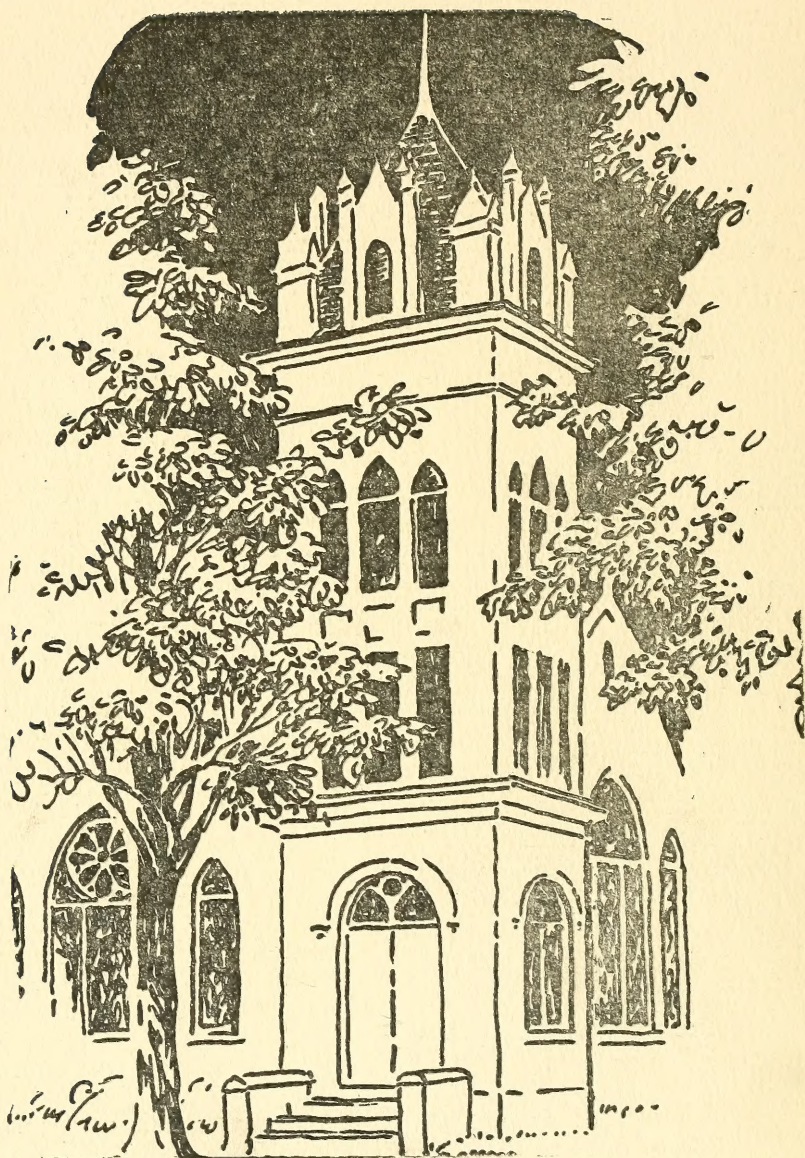
D. Walter Turner	Oct. 19, 1919	_____
Harden B. Rash	Oct. 19, 1919	Retired, April 6, 1952
Jacob A. Bush	Feb. 17, 1924	Died, Aug. 1, 1951
L. Bascom Martin	Feb. 17, 1924	Elected Elder, Oct. 6, 1946
James C. Harper	Feb. 17, 1924	Elected Elder, Dec. 19, 1937
W. Clyde Suddreth	Feb. 2, 1930	Elected Elder, Oct. 6, 1944
Stanley S. Jennings	Feb. 2, 1930	Died, Nov. 29, 1948
Laudie E. Dimmette	Feb. 2, 1930	_____
Clarence Shaw Warren	Dec. 19, 1937	Died, Dec. 19, 1950
Augustus Cloer	Dec. 19, 1937	Retired, April 6, 1952
G. G. Ludwig	Dec. 19, 1937	Elected Elder, Oct. 6, 1946
R. F. Reins	Dec. 19, 1937	Died, Aug. 20, 1951
F. A. Thompson	Dec. 19, 1937	_____
Charles B. Pegram	Dec. 19, 1937	_____
Walter J. Spainhour	Dec. 19, 1937	Retired, April 6, 1952
John Barr Houston, Jr.	Dec. 19, 1937	Elected Elder, Oct. 6, 1946
Fate J. Beal	Oct. 6, 1946	_____
J. Harper Beall, Jr.	Oct. 6, 1946	_____
John Christian Bernhardt	Oct. 6, 1946	_____
Duncan Hunter	Oct. 6, 1946	Dismissed to First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, March 2, 1951
Herbert B. Jennings	Oct. 6, 1946	_____
George W. Kirsten, Jr.	Oct. 6, 1946	_____
Pinckney L. Lackey	Oct. 6, 1946	Dismissed to Baptist Church, Manlius, N. Y. April 6, 1949
Fred A. Long	Oct. 6, 1946	_____
R. M. McGirt	Oct. 6, 1946	Retired, April 6, 1952
Lynn R. Bernhardt	Feb. 27, 1949	_____
George Lewis Bernhardt	Dec. 31, 1950	_____
A. A. McLean, Jr., M.D.	May 1, 1949	_____
Dr. Dennis S. Cook	April 6, 1952	_____
Turner Nelson	April 6, 1952	_____
Jack E. Walsh	April 6, 1952	_____
W. Gordon Rainbolt	April 6, 1952	_____
George C. Robbins	April 6, 1952	_____

Centennial Notes

Autographs

*“Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home.”*

NC 975.6845 F527C c.1
First Presbyterian Church
Centennial celebration,
1852-1952.



*"Except the Lord build the house,
they labor in vain that build it."*